

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01293 281128Z

53

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: JCP CHAIRMAN MIYAMOTO UNDER FIRE IN DIET

SUMMARY. IN AN UNPRECEDENTED PERFORMANCE, DSP CHAIRMAN KASUGA, DURING THE COURSE OF JANUARY 27 LOWER HOUSE INTERPELLATIONS, RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT JCP CHAIRMAN MIYAMOTO'S CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF A FORMER JCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE COURSE OF THE SO-CALLED 1933 "JCP LYNCHING INCIDENT" AND THE POST-WAR RESTORATION OF MIYAMOTO'S CIVIL RIGHTS. KASUGA, A STAUNCH ANTI-COMMUNIST, HOPED BY DISCREDITING MIYAMOTO TO STEM THE GROWING JCP APPEAL TO YOUNG UNIONISTS AND ITS PROGRESS AT THE POLLS. HE MAY HAVE HAD SUPPORT FROM OTHER ANTI-COMMUNIST PARTIES IN MAKING HIS ATTACK. HE MAY HOPE THAT TO THE EXTENT HE CAN KEEP THE QUESTION ALIVE, MIYAMOTO'S IMAGE AND THAT OF THE JCP WILL SUFFER. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 01293 281128Z

1. IN A DRAMATIC SPEECH DURING JANUARY 27 LOWER HOUSE

INTERPELLATIONS, DSP CHAIRMAN IKKO KASUGA, CITING RECENT ARTICLES IN THE "BUNGEI SHUNJU" MAGAZINE, LEVELLED A POINT-BLANK BLAST AT THE JCP BY INQUIRING WHETHER THE 1933 DEATH OF THEN JCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER TATSUO OBATA IN THE NOW FAMOUS JCP "LYNCH INCIDENT" HAD BEEN CAUSED BY OBATA'S FRAIL HEALTH, AS THE JCP HAS BEEN ASSERTING, OR BY JCP CHAIRMAN KENJI MIYAMOTO WHO WAS ARRESTED THAT YEAR AND FINALLY FOUND GUILTY OF THIS AND OTHER CRIMES IN DECEMBER 1944, AFTER A PROLONGED COURT BATTLE. KASUGA ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE 1946 RESTORATION OF MIYAMOTO'S CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER THE DECEMBER 1945 AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD BEEN APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION SPECIFICALLY DID NOT APPLY TO THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES. KASUGA ASKED FOR THE PRESENTATION OF PERTINENT DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING SCAP RECORDS, IN ORDER THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TWO INCIDENTS COULD BE CLARIFIED ONCE AND FOR ALL.

2. PRIME MINISTER MIKI, APPARENTLY TAKEN BY SURPRISE, DUCKED THE QUESTION AND DEFERRED TO THE JUSTICE MINISTER WHO RECITED THE COURSE OF EVENTS LEADING TO MIYAMOTO'S CONVICTION AND SUBSEQUENT RESTORATION OF HIS CIVIL RIGHTS. HE PROMISED TO PRESENT THE RELATED DOCUMENTS TO THE DIET IF THERE WERE A FORMAL REQUEST.

3. IN A LATER PRESS CONFERENCE, JCP SEC GEN FUWA CALLED KASUGA'S ASSERTIONS AN ATTEMPT TO USE THE DIET FOR ANTI-COMMUNIST PARTISAN POLITICAL PURPOSES. HE ASSERTED THAT THE 1945 AMNESTY HAD CLOSED THE CASE AND THAT INABA'S (JUSTICE MINISTER) COMMENTS ON THE INCIDENT WERE THEREFORE INAPPROPRIATE.

4. LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE DIET SESSION THAT, AS THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME ONE PARTY CHAIRMAN HAD ATTACKED ANOTHER IN THE DIET, THE LDP WAS TAKING THE MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY AND HAD AN OBLIGATION TO CLARIFY MATTERS FOR THE PUBLIC. THE JSP HAS MAINTAINED SILENCE ON THE ISSUE, BUT ONE MEMBER REMARKED THAT KASUGA'S BOMBSHELL HAD EFFECTIVELY ENDED ANY POSSIBILITY FOR AN OPPOSITION "JOINT STRUGGLE" DURING THE CURRENT DIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 01293 281128Z

SESSION. THE CGP (KOMEITO) HAS NOT AS YET OFFICIALLY COMMENTED, BUT HAS SHOWN "KEEN INTEREST" IN KASUGA'S ASSERTIONS.

5. COMMENT. KASUGA, LONG KNOWN FOR HIS ARDENTLY ANTI-COMMUNIST STAND, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN COLLECTING MATERIAL FOR A MIYAMOTO EXPOSE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EXPANDING REPUTATION OF

MIYAMOTO AS A REASONABLE COMMUNIST, UNTAINTED BY EARLIER JCP SCANDALS. HE HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO MAKE HIS ATTACK ON MIYAMOTO EARLIER, BUT WAS RESTRAINED BY OTHER DSP MEMBERS WHO FEARED THAT IT WOULD NOT SUCCEED. HE WAS EVIDENTLY ENCOURAGED BY THE "BUNGEI SHUNJU" ARTICLES, HOWEVER, AND THE DOMEI LEADERSHIP, WHICH IS INCREASINGLY NERVOUS ABOUT THE GROWING APPEAL OF THE JCP TO YOUNG TRADE UNIONISTS WHO ARE UNAWARE OF PARTY'S SORDID PAST. HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED BEHIND-THE-SCENE SUPPORT FROM THE LDP LEADERSHIP AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE CGP WHICH REGARDS THE JCP AS ITS PRINCIPAL OPPONENT AT THE POLLS. ONE SOURCE HAS INDICATED THAT HE RECEIVED ADVANCE ASSURANCES FROM THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE THAT IT WOULD NOT TURN A COLD SHOULDER TO HIS DEMAND FOR THE PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS.

6. KASUGA HAS SUCCEEDED IN DROPPING A BOMB IN JAPANESE POLITICS AT A TIME WHEN EVERY PARTY IS CONCERNED ABOUT FURTHER JCP ELECTORAL GAINS. TO THE EXTENT HE CAN KEEP THE QUESTION ALIVE THROUGH A TRICKLE OF FURTHER REVELATIONS ABOUT MIYAMOTO, KASUGA MAY HOPE THAT MIYAMOTO'S REPUTATION WILL SUFFER AND, ALONG WITH IT, THE PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC IMAGE OF THE JCP.

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